Patna and Bangalore on trial basis and based on its successful working; this is now going to be set up in all the remaining telecom circles covering all the Zonal Railways. Any passenger in the telecom circle desiring to make enquiry will dial a universal number 139 as a local call without prefixing any Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) code and get connected to Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). Even for a manual enquiry, he will be guided through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS).

Gauge Conversion

1307. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion works going on at present in the country, Railway-zone-wise;

(b) the details of financial allocations made for this purpose during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) the total funds incurred, so far; on these projects in the country, Railway-zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (c) As per Pink Book 2005-06, the number of gauge conversion projects in progress and expenditure incurred on these upto 31.03.2005, zone-wise, is as under:

Railway	No. of projects	Approx. expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2005 (Rs. in crores)
Central	1	220
North Eastern	5	285
Northeast Frontier	6	1952
Southern	7	513
South Central	5	903
South Eastern	3	208
Western	6	571
East Central	4	175
East Coast	1	28
North Central	1	0.11
North Western	6	183
South East Central	2	149
South West	4	578

These projects are in various stages of progress. The projects which have been completed have not been included in the above list.

(b) Total expenditure on gauge conversion planhead during the first three years of the 10th plan period has been Rs. 3248.30 crore. During 2005-06, (4th year), the allocation as per revised estimate is Rs. 1282.67 crore. During 2006-07, an allocation of Rs. 1450.88 crore has been proposed.

Completion of Rail Projects

1308. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of rail projects in respect of which construction work has started more than five year ago and only around 50 percent of the total construction work have been completed, so far;

(b) if so, what are the number and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any deadline to complete these proejcts earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per Pink Book 2005-06, there are 240 ongoing Railway projects under the Planheads New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport. These include projects which have been taken up prior to 2000-01 and on which progress is less than 50%. Details of these projects is as under:

New Line	:	50
Gauge Conversion	:	27
Doubling	:	16
Metropolitan Transport	:	1
Railway Electrification	:	1

(c) The projects would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.